

CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

March 31, 2015

Call to Order

DUI Task Force president Barbara Bessette called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, noting that a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Roll Call

DUI Task Force Members

Cascade County Attorney designee: Ashley Wilkinson – **Present**
Cascade County Sheriff designee: Deputy Travis Grove – **Present**
City of Great Falls Chief of Police designee: Captain Tim Shanks– **Excused Absence**
Great Falls City Attorney designee: Cassidy Blomgren – **Present**
State of Montana Highway Patrol District II Chief designee: Trooper David Baggs – **Excused Absence**
Great Falls Victim-Witness Services designee: Savannah Hilton – **Savannah Hilton**
State of MT Adult Probation & Parole Regional Admin designee: Wayne Bye – **Excused Absence**
Montana Tavern Association Home Safe Program designee: Vince Kyle – **Present**
Gateway Recovery Center designee: Barbara Bessette - **Present**
Benefis Health Systems, Inc. Chemical Dependency Unit designee: J.T. Lute – **Present**
Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. designee: Lisa Meyers – **Present**
Cascade County Commissioner: Jim Larson - **Present**
Great Falls Public Schools designee: Danielle Funseth – **Present**
Airmen Against Drunk Driving designee: A1C Bianca Barton – **Present**
Citizen Members: Jim Whitaker – **Present**; Corin Fisch – **Present**; Open Seat
Task Force Coordinator: Jerry Kelley - **Present**

Members of the Public in Attendance

Morgan Davies, KFBB
Doug Ormseth, Shortgrass Web Development
Ty Small, Deputy, Cascade County Sheriff's Office
John Hayes, Cascade County Tavern Association

2. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2015

President Bessette noted that Pondera County Prevention Specialist Diana Agre's last name was misspelled. Brenda Demers will change the spelling from Agne to Agre. **Lisa Meyers motioned to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2015 meeting with Diana Agre's name spelled correctly. Jim Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Information Committee

Progress on Website Contract: Doug Ormseth of Shortgrass Web Development presented and explained the finished product of the Cascade County DUI Task Force website. Mr. Ormseth pointed out that 90-95% of the website is updateable by DUI Task Force members. Members of the DUI Task Force and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions. Barbara Bessette advised that suggestions for changes to the website should be directed to her, Jerry Kelley, or Lisa Meyers.

Logo Contest: DUI Task Force members viewed the four logo contest submissions. After discussing the submissions, the prize, and the promotion of the contest, DUI Task Force members agreed to extend the

deadline and target the art departments at the University of Great Falls and high schools in Cascade County. Morgan Davies offered to mention the contest in her news report. **Danielle Funseth motioned to extend the deadline for the logo contest until May 15. Ashley Wilkinson seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

INIWA: Jim Whitaker asked if the Great Falls High INIWA is still being published. Lisa Meyers advised that they are going digital and have not completed the process. Jerry Kelley confirmed that the DUI Task Force has not paid for any advertising in the INIWA this year.

School Advertising Art Contest: Barbara Bessette reported that she has received a number of submissions from CMR High School. The winner will be chosen in April.

4. Financial/Budget Performance Report and Requests for Payment/Purchases

Jim Whitaker reported on the transactions, and DUI Task Force members reviewed the financial reports. Reinstatement fees received in March were \$81.00, and \$350.00 was disbursed for the Spring Fling Hoop Thing, leaving a balance of \$47,177.21.

Alco-Sensor Instrument Set: DUI Task Force members reviewed an Agenda Action Report wherein the Cascade County Sheriff's Office is requesting \$2,175 to purchase five Alco-sensor sets to be used to determine preliminary sobriety of suspect drivers. These would replace ones that are no longer in working order. After a short discussion in support of the request, **Vince Kyle motioned to approve the full request of \$2,175 for the Cascade County Sheriff's Office to purchase five Alco-sensor sets. Jim Whitaker seconded. There being no questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.**

CMR/Great Falls High Project Graduation: DUI Task Force members reviewed an Agenda Action Report wherein CMR/Great Falls High Project Graduation is requesting a monetary donation to be used to provide a safe chemical-free all-night party for their graduating seniors. Jerry Kelley advised that the DUI Task Force donated \$400 last year, and they are requesting the same this year. **Danielle Funseth motioned to approve the donation of \$400 to CMR/Great Falls High Project Graduation. Vince Kyle seconded.** Positive comments were made about the event and there was discussion about the possibility of hanging a DUI Task Force banner at the venue. Danielle Funseth advised that donors are recognized on a flashing board all night. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Home Safe Program: DUI Task Force members reviewed an Agenda Action Report wherein the Cascade County Tavern Association is requesting \$8,000 for their Home Safe Program which provides free rides from licensed drinking establishments to individuals who are impaired. There was a short discussion regarding the community's substantial use of the program. **Jim Whitaker moved to donate \$8,000 to the Cascade County Tavern Association for the Home Safe Program. Jim Larson seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Montana Alcohol Summit: DUI Task Force members reviewed an Agenda Action Report wherein Cascade County DUI Task Force president Barbara Bessette is requesting up to \$500 for her and Lisa Meyers to attend the Montana Alcohol Summit in Bozeman May 20-21. The summit is free, so the money would be used for the motel, mileage and meals. After a short discussion, **Danielle Funseth motioned to reimburse Barbara Bessette and Lisa Meyers up to \$500 for expenses related to attending the Montana Alcohol Summit in Bozeman. Corin Fisch seconded. There being no further questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.**

5. Report from the Task Force Coordinator

New Donators: Jerry Kelley reviewed that last month the group talked about finding more donators for the Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony and anything else for which the DUI Task Force may need donations. Last month Vince Kyle and Corin Fisch volunteered to solicit donators. Corin Fisch advised that she had positive results with the Fairfield Inn and Bed Bath and Beyond. She is working on Starbucks and Dante's.

Radio PSA's: Barbara Bessette has voiced some radio public service announcements. Jerry Kelley commented that he has been hearing a few of the PSA's and wondered why at the end of the ad it says it is sponsored by someone other than the DUI Task Force. He asked Central Montana Radio and received clarification that the \$1500 pays for making and recording the message which they play three times per day on each of their five stations. Other businesses sponsor our message. The Task Force concluded that the Cascade County DUI Task Force needs to be mentioned in the message itself. Barbara Bessette will be taping a new message, so she will include the Cascade County DUI Task Force name. Danielle Funseth suggested finding out how much it would cost us to sponsor it ourselves.

HB 132: Jerry Kelley advised that this bill passed. It provides for DUI reinstatement fee money given to counties that do not have a DUI Task Force to be redistributed to counties that do have a DUI Task Force. At least \$18,000 will be disbursed to Cascade County by July 1. Jerry Kelley commented that he has been updating the Annual Plan all year, and asked Task Force members to think about ways to utilize the money for public information education. The plan will need to be submitted to the County Commissioners prior to June 1, so ideas should be e-mailed to Mr. Kelley as soon as possible.

HB 202: Jerry Kelley advised that this bill was pretty much killed. It would have provided an option to donate to DUI prevention when registering a vehicle.

SB 93: This has to do with restricted-use driving permits. It is going before the Senate before moving on to House.

Request from Members: Jerry Kelley requested that DUI Task Force members e-mail updated contact information to him for the Annual Plan.

DD Buddy Monetary Request: Jerry Kelley contacted the DD Buddy people since he had not heard from them regarding the monetary request they were going to submit. Alex Crosby advised Mr. Kelley that he was in Washington DC lobbying. Mr. Crosby told Jerry Kelley to hold off because they are having some sort of internal problems, and when they are ready they will contact us. Danielle Funseth advised that there is a similar program in Alabama and there is a lot of liability from people sponsoring the program there. The people funding the program are now being sued from responsible drivers that picked up people. Danielle Funseth suggested that the DUI Task Force could help DD Buddy through their marketing by putting their Q code on such things as coasters in the bars so if a person needs a ride home they would just need to scan the coaster.

6. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics

Deputy Travis Grove reported on the stats. February DUI's increased by one from last year. The average blood alcohol content decreased to 0.165 from 0.185 last year. The Base had 36 saves which was significantly higher than last year. The Home Safe program provided 134 rides and took 181 people home safely. Deputy Grove advised that the felony stats are zero because the person that provided

them has left her position and it has not been filled. Deputy Grove reported that the MIP's were down a little this last month but he is sure the call load at night has been higher. Jim Whitaker commented that the deferred and dismissed MIP's look high. Cassidy Blomgren explained that when an MIP is a first offense the individual is eligible for a deferred imposition of sentence. They can plead guilty and are ordered to pay a fine, perform community service, attend an MIP class, and must stay out of trouble for six months. If they meet all of the requirements at the end of 6 months, the judge will dismiss the charge and it will stay off their record.

7. MAFB "Save" Stats from Airmen Against Drunk Driving

A1C Bianca Barton reported that they have gotten better about advertising and making people aware they can get gas cards for providing rides, so they are getting more volunteers.

8. KUDO Cards

No KUDO cards were awarded.

9. Round Robin

Danielle Funseth passed out key chains and pens from the Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance with the "Above the Influence" logo. Ms. Funseth explained that the kid piece is promoting the theme of living above the influence of crime, bullying, alcohol, and drugs. They have a lot on social media. Today they participated in a "react summit" against tobacco at UGF. They will be doing prevention week in May. Danielle advised that her boss at Great Falls Public Schools is retiring and a new person will be in charge of the prevention program. MIP's in general look to be down; however, it is a bit misconceiving because alcohol is being replaced with marijuana. Ms. Funseth suggested pushing the issue of driving under the influence of marijuana.

Vince Kyle thanked the group for supporting the Home Safe Program.

Cassidy Blomgren commented that it is her understanding the police department is looking at sending another officer to the DRE program to make a total of three DRE trained officers. They had a conviction from an officer writing a DUI for an air duster.

Ashley Wilkinson advised that HB 488 made it through the House Judiciary Committee and it has a hearing April 2nd in the Senate. HB 488 deals with penalties for DUI's and fixes administrative issues with Aggravated DUI. It increases fees for license reinstatement for refusal of a breath test. The money would go to the crime lab to pay for increased costs of blood tests and other costs related to an Aggravated DUI.

Jerry Kelley reminded Jim Whitaker that he is scheduled to write a letter to the editor. Mr. Kelley asked that Task Force members look at the website and e-mail him, Barbara Bessette, or Lisa Meyers of any suggestions.

Barbara Bessette commented that the Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance went live today with the substance abuse survey targeting 18 to 24 year-olds. They are trying to get 1,000 completed surveys. The results will help with tailor made prevention services for 18 to 24 year olds.

Lisa Meyers asked that anyone with pictures that could be used on the website to get them to her.

Jim Larson stated that there are applications for the open seat on the DUI Task Force at the County Commission office. The closing date is Friday, April 3rd, and the commission will meet on Wednesday to choose who will fill the seat.

10. Public Comment

John Hayes commented that there is a very strong movement at the legislature of folks trying to push for a study of the alcohol distribution system in Montana. They want to make an unlimited number of licenses available. There is currently a quota system. Mr. Hayes voiced that the idea of a study of the quota system for alcohol distribution is ridiculous and that a quota system is necessary.

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:37 p.m. Jim Whitaker motioned to adjourn the meeting and J.T. Lute seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be April 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Citizen Member Expiration Dates: Jim Whitaker – May 28, 2015 Vacancy – July 24, 2015
Corin Fisch – August 12, 2016

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| Letters to the Editor 2015: | February – Jerry Kelley | March – Savannah Hilton |
| April – Jim Whitaker | May – Barb Bessette | June – Lisa Meyers |
| July – J.T. Lute | August – Corin Fisch | September – Barbara Bessette |
| October – Lisa Meyers | November – Travis Grove | December – Charles Marino-Franco |
| January 2016 – Vince Kyle | | |